

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are all the claims pending in the Application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 12 to further clarify the invention. In addition, Applicant cancels claim 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that Umera does not teach or suggest the Master Key System as recited in some variation in the independent claims 1, 9, and 12. That is, Umera discloses a method of issuing cards by using a card issuing machine including a memory having stored therein an initial secret code, a card reader, and a keyboard. In Uemura, this initial secret code is keyed in and upon a match, a new secret code is keyed in for associating a first card with the card issuing machine (*see* Abstract). Uemura, however, has nothing to do with a master key system as set forth in some variation in the independent claims 1, 9, and 12. Uemura fails to teach or suggest a master key system that enables various persons with different access authorization to open all relevant doors with only one key. Uemura simply relates to a method and a system for issuing cards in a hotel but is unrelated to a master key system, as set forth in some variation in claims 1, 9, and 12. In short, Uemura addresses an unrelated problem and fails to teach or suggest the master key system set forth in some variation in claims 1, 9, and 12.

Also, the user devices, set forth in some variation in the independent claims, have electronic circuitry being arranged to carry out software operations. The magnetic cards of Uemura, on the other hand, are passive information bearers unable to perform software operations. Moreover, in Uemura, the information stored in the user devices *i.e.*, on the magnetic cards, is readable from the outside. That is, Uemura fails to disclose the electronic

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Appln. No. 09/802,931
Attorney Docket No.: Q63553

encryption keys stored in the system and user devices being unreadable from outside the electronic circuitry and only used by algorithms executed internally of the user device, as required in some variation in the independent claims 1, 9, and 12.

For at least these exemplary reasons, independent claims 1, 9, and 12 patentably distinguishes from Uemura. Claims 2-7, 10, and 11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1 or 9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. **If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.**

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

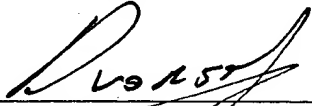
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23373

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Date: November 3, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: Q63553